

SHOULD WIVES BE PAID WAGES?

BY WINONA WILCOX

"Think of the industries included in keeping house!" admonished Mrs. Francis Neilson of England, in a recent lecture in Boston. "Child rearing, cooking, baking and preserving, cleaning, laundering, mending and pressing, sewing and first aid.

"Marriage is the hardest way there is of earning one's living." Marriage is an occupation, Mrs. Neilson therefore argues, and wives ought to be paid wages.

The above list, however, suggests that marriage is ten occupations and the question flashes, "Ought a wife to draw a salary for each?"

If not, which employments should be eliminated altogether?

Or would it be wise to throw a few extras in for good measure?

Or should they be paid for by the piece, so much for a new baby, so much for nursing Johnny through the measles, so much for canning the tomatoes, and so much for the Christmas bother?

Or should employment be grouped, as any two for \$5 a week, or \$50 a month for half a dozen assorted?

This subject never gets tiresome, because discussions about money cause a large per cent of divorces and most of those marital troubles which make pay day look like a national calamity in many a home.

But no matter how much it is discussed, it never gets settled because nobody has been able to answer questions like the above, while anybody can add a dozen "occupations" to the list. In fact, that is just the trouble. When a wife starts out to compute the worth of her services she treats each household art as if it were quite unrelated to any other, and as if she were compelled to carry all of them on every day of her life.

But no woman in her senses bakes the day she washes, nor does she can fruit in the Christmas season.

Child bearing is, of course, a specialty, but who is brave enough to set a price on it? The mother who can do so certainly ought to have her money, for she is not qualified to appreciate the finer rewards of maternity.

Wages for wives? Wages for husbands are not enough to include a fair salary for a devoted wife and mother. The best men know this, the best wives never think about wages at all.

But all men are not good—to some a wife is a slave. And some excellent women who wouldn't think of questioning a husband's honesty, never let their husband open their own pay envelopes—which is slavery for him.

Wages will never reconcile a wife to scrubbing floors. Taking the cooking out of the kitchen will not satisfy any women who believes marriage is the hardest way of earning a living. Living in a family hotel never yet stopped domestic dissensions.

Finances never yet made trouble between a man and a woman who love each other. What the sad marriage world needs is not wages for wives, but more ideal love.

BOYS' BROTHERHOOD PLANS TO PUT CHICAGO ON TRIAL

The Boys' Brotherhood Republic elected the following officers for the coming year: Mayor, Ralph Goodman; city clerk, Saul Bragen; city treasurer, Joseph Willens; city judge, Oscar Nudelman; chief of police, Hyman Rosenberg.

It has been the belief with a great many of the brotherhood boys that "if tried before a judge and jury of boys the city of Chicago would be found guilty of a crime against boyhood." The newly-elected city judge plans to carry out this idea through a trial, by boys, of Chicago, in the near future.